

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY
ANNUAL REPORT 1987/88



VICTORIA

Report

of the

**ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
AUTHORITY**

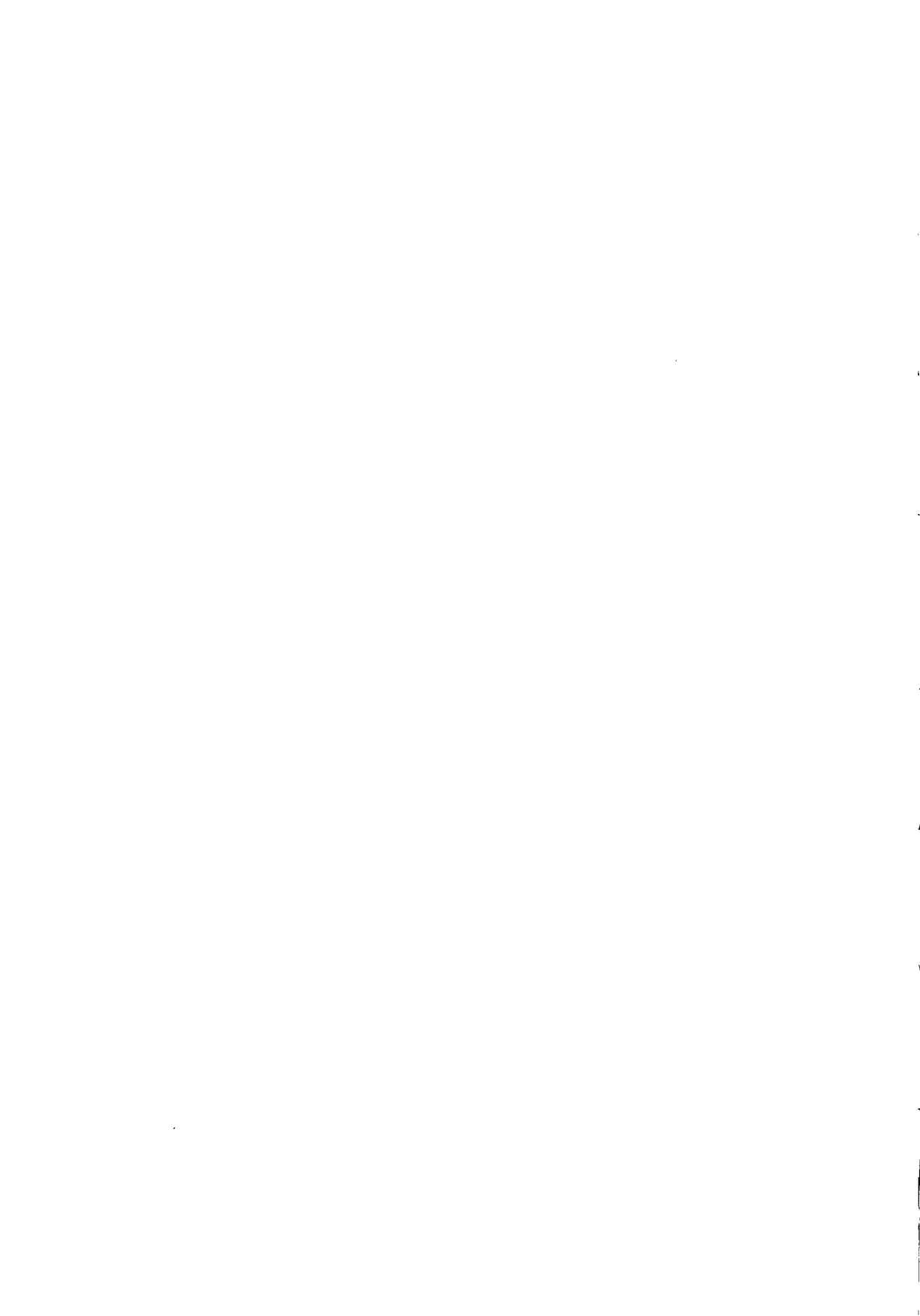
for the

Year ended 30 June 1988

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Prior to submitting a formal works approval application, the company liaised closely with EPA on the design details of the plant.

The plant has been constructed in accordance with EPA works approval requirements and incorporates high quality waste processing equipment and sophisticated stormwater and spillage control systems. The facility, now licensed, is being commissioned.

Active Waste (now National Waste Co Ltd): The company's liquid waste plant at Ordish Road, Laverton existed at the time the Schedule 4 regulations were introduced. The plant had problems with stormwater management, spillage and control. EPA negotiated with the company, its consultants and the Dandenong Valley Authority, to control these problems and issued a licence requiring the upgrading of operations and enclosure of waste handling areas.

Wannop Chemicals Pty Ltd: The company operates a waste solvent distillation plant and an incinerator at its premises in Ordish Road, Dandenong.

The company has experienced difficulties in operating its incinerator. Emissions from the incinerator have resulted in odour complaints from nearby residents.

The incinerator problems have reduced the rate at which residues and sludges can be treated, causing storage problems at the site.

EPA is discussing options with the company about the operation of the incinerator and the storage capacity of the site.

Plenty Corridor

Population analyses indicate that Melbourne will grow by some 430 000 people

by the year 2001. The Government has chosen urban development of the Plenty Corridor to provide housing for approximately one-third of these extra people. Careful planning is essential to avoid environmental damage, particularly as the Plenty River already contains high levels of nutrients.

EPA is studying the impact of development on water quality and biological health of the Plenty River. The study considers the effects of polluted stormwater run-off, erosion and sewage on the Plenty River system, particularly the changes in levels of nutrients and suspended solids. The results will assist in planning the Plenty Corridor development. EPA has encouraged the use of buffer zones to protect future residents from the nuisance effects of industries and traffic on major roads. New approaches to sewage, stormwater management and the location of major roads will be needed to protect the Plenty Corridor environment.

Southern Dental Industries

Southern Dental Industries produces dental amalgams at its site in Bayswater.

Mercury is stored at the site and is also reclaimed and reprocessed from off-specification products.

Poor operational practices resulted in the contamination of several areas with metallic mercury.

EPA served two clean-up notices requiring the company to remove contaminated soil from the site, conduct soil tests to ensure the site is well cleaned, and investigate disposal options for the contaminated soil. The clean-up must be completed by November 1988.

The Authority has also instituted legal proceedings for land pollution against the company.